

# TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

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## Annual Report

OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1951

BY

HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

TAUNTON :

H. G. MOUNTER AND CO., LTD.,

PRINTERS



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# TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1951

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*Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the  
Taunton Isolation Hospital and Taunton  
Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Taunton :*

HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(appt. August, 1946).

*Senior Sanitary Inspector:*  
W. PLIMMER, C.R.S.I. (appt. July, 1950).

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*  
E. G. PAYNE, C.R.S.I. (appt. Feb., 1936).

*Matron, Isolation Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium :*  
Miss M. E. MOSSMAN, S.R.N. (appt. March, 1943).

Address :  
Taunton Isolation Hospital, Cheddon Road.  
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*Clerk to the Council :*  
R. G. WORNELL, Mary Street House, Taunton.  
Telephone : Taunton 2285/6.



To :

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1951. The Report is set out in the manner of previous ones, so that comparison with former years can easily be made.

As in previous reports, I insert here a few general comments on points of interest or importance, some of which are dealt with in greater detail in the body of the report.

- (1) The state of diphtheria immunisation among children and young people in the district is not one which can be regarded with complacency. The proportion of protected children to those unprotected in the same age groups has been falling steadily for the past few years, and this reflects a tendency which has become general throughout the country. If it continues unchecked there can be only one result, and that will be the reappearance of diphtheria in our midst, with all its misery and loss of life. I think it may be useful in this connection to repeat here some statements on the subject which I prepared for a press article :

“In Taunton Rural District there were 338 cases of diphtheria notified from 1912 to 1944, and in that period thirty-two deaths took place from the disease. Since 1947” (when the full effects of the immunisation campaign had come into play) “there has not been a single case of diphtheria in the district. It is essential for the public, and particularly those in charge of young children, to realise that immunisation must be kept at a high level in the population. If the proportion of those protected is allowed to fall to any considerable extent, it is certain that diphtheria will again spread its ravages among us.”

“It is a clear duty of all of us who are in any way connected with or interested in Public Health work to counteract the present lowered incentive for parents to have their children immunised. By stressing the dangers of diphtheria, by pointing out that it was until very



recently among the commonest causes of death in childhood, by mentioning the splendid success of the immunisation campaign in this country and the simplicity of the procedure as applied to each individual child, we shall be supporting one of the most useful measures in the whole field of preventive medicine."

- (2) The number of new notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the district during 1951 was the highest for several years. There was a particularly high notification rate among males between the ages of 25 and 45, which emphasises the tragic fact about this disease that it tends to strike down young adults and those in the prime of life. The higher number of cases notified is probably due to some extent to improved methods of diagnosis and contact tracing whereby cases are being brought to light which formerly would have remained unsuspected. But Tuberculosis remains one of the most serious and important of infective diseases and all our efforts to improve the environmental condition and general hygiene of the community would be worth while even if their sole beneficial result were to check the spread of this disease.
- (3) The Infant Mortality Rate for the year was 22.8 per 1,000 live births, and compares favourably with the national rate for England and Wales which was 29.6. It will be found on reference to the Report for 1950 that the rate for that year was 39.47 compared with a national rate of 29.8. The actual number of children dying in the district before reaching the age of 1 year was 7 in 1951 and 12 in 1950. This is pointed out in order to show that where relatively small numbers are being dealt with, percentage figures or rates per 1,000 may give a somewhat false impression of the actual position. In any case the rate for 1951 is low, and it may be said that the obstetrical care and infant welfare work in the district is of a high standard.
- (4) In 1951 there were many more applications than in any previous year for permission to station caravans and other movable dwellings on various sites in the district. 27 new licences were granted for individual caravans, and a further 5 new licences applied to sites which together would be capable of accommodating 25 caravans. Permission has in each case to be obtained



also from the Planning Authority, and is sometimes for various good reasons refused, even when no exception can be taken to the application on Public Health grounds. Some of the owners of licensed sites do not accept caravans up to the permitted number, and thus it is difficult to be sure of the exact number of movable dwellings in occupation at any particular time, but it is estimated that there were at least 160 in the Taunton Rural District at the end of 1951. The same development is taking place to a varying degree in most other rural areas of England and Wales, and is of course a direct result of the present housing shortage. Many problems of health and hygiene arise in connection with these movable dwellings, and in this district, with all new applications, an endeavour is made by the Medical Officer of Health to inspect the proposed site with the Sanitary Inspector, and to discuss the hygienic aspects with the prospective owner or occupier. A register of movable dwellings is kept by the Public Health Department, and periodical inspections are made to ensure that conditions remain satisfactory.

- (5) It will be seen from the section of the Report dealing with Housing that the Council has been pressing on with new house construction, the limiting factor being the number allowed under regional allocation. 16 houses were completed in 1951, and at the end of the year 40 were under construction. A problem which has been exercising the Health Department is the considerable number of sub-standard houses which are occupied and which are gradually falling into a state of serious disrepair. Most of these are assessed at such a low rental that it has become unreasonable and indeed sometimes impossible to require the landlords to carry out the necessary major repairs. This is a matter which requires to be dealt with at a national level, but the exercise of tact and persuasion by the Sanitary Inspectors has resulted in much useful work being done in this field in the district.
- (6) An important reorganisation of the refuse collection and disposal service was brought about during 1951, and attention is drawn to the interesting report on this subject furnished by the Chief Sanitary Inspector. It will be seen that the number of areas and properties collected from has been considerably increased and that

collection is carried out more frequently than formerly in many areas. A new refuse tip, also, was brought into use during the course of the year, which should satisfactorily meet the need for disposal facilities for many years to come. These developments have resulted in a greatly improved refuse service for the district.

- (7) Work was completed during 1951 on a new water supply for parts of Churchstanton Parish. Water, treated by chlorination, has been distributed in pipes from a spring at Stapley, and properties which previously depended on wells have now been provided with a piped supply.
- (8) A new feature in the Report is an account of the work done on rodent control. This is an important Public Health activity, for rats, in addition to the enormous waste of foodstuffs which they cause, are potential carriers of a number of serious infective diseases. The Rodent Operator of the Council has set out in tabular form a detailed report of his work during the year which provides some interesting figures and which will form a useful standard of comparison for future years.

Once again I wish to thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk, the Staff of the Public Health Department, and the Matron and Staff of the Isolation Hospital for their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH MORRISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

## TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

### Statistics for the Year 1951

Area (in acres) ... ..	70,675
Estimate of resident population, mid-year 1951 ...	20,550
Census population, 1951 ... ..	20,550
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books on 31st December, 1951 ... ..	5,179
Rateable value 31st December, 1951 ... ..	£104,943
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1951 ...	£430

### Physical Features and Social Conditions

Taunton Rural District lies in the south-western region of Somerset, surrounding Taunton Borough, the County Town. It is roughly triangular in shape, with Taunton Borough situated near the middle of the triangle. The boundary of the district is formed on the north by the Rural Districts of Williton and Bridgwater; on the east and south-east by the Rural Districts of Langport and Chard; on the south by the County of Devon; on the south-west and west by the Rural District of Wellington.

There is considerable variation in the type of country found in different parts of the district: in the north and north-west there is high ground forming portions of the Quantock and Brendon Hills; in the south the land rises to the hill parish of Churchstanton lying in the Blackdowns; between these regions lies the fertile valley of Taunton Deane, with the ground falling towards the east to the flat moors and marshy ground surrounding the lower reaches of Tone and Parret. Geologically also, the formations vary. In the north are found chiefly old and new red sandstone; in the south, lower lias and upper greensand; the valley regions have new red marl, new red sandstone and alluvium.

The climate is equable, with an average annual rainfall of 36.6 ins., and an average mean daily temperature of about 41° F. in January and 62° F. in July.



Rich arable and pasture land covers most of the district, but some of the hill regions are in the rough uncultivated state, and the soil on the Blackdown Hills tends to be poor in quality. In the eastern parishes the land is subject to seasonal flooding. Communications are good, and almost all parts of the district are easily accessible by road. Following the Tone valley through the middle of the district runs one of the main lines of the Western Region of British Railways and three branch lines leave it at or near Taunton to run to the north, south and west.

There are thirty-two parishes with estimated populations varying from 80 to 2,650. Habitations are widely scattered over these parishes, but there are several sizeable villages, the largest being Bishops Lydeard, Bishops Hull, Lydeard St. Lawrence, North Curry and Trull.

Most of the inhabitants are engaged in some form of agriculture, dairy farming being particularly important. General farming is also largely practised, and allied activities are withy growing and basket-making, fruit farming and cider-making. There is a paper mill in the district which employs a fair number of people, and another source of employment for men is stone-quarrying which is carried out on a considerable scale. Many of the residents in the rural district travel daily to Taunton to work in factories and other establishments.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year

Live Births :—

		<b>Total</b>	<b>M.</b>	<b>F.</b>	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ... 14.94
Legitimate	...	290	144	146	
Illegitimate	...	17	7	10	
		<u>307</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>156</u>	

Still Births—Total 5.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	16.03
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	0.24

Deaths—Total 243.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	11.82
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes—Nil.

	<b>Deaths.</b>	<b>Rates per 1,000 births.</b>
From Puerperal Sepsis	...	—
From other Maternal Causes	...	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total 7.

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	22.80
,, legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	24.13
,, illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	42
,, Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
,, Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	—

Rates for England and Wales as a whole :—

Live births	per 1,000 civilian population	...	15.50
Still births	,, ,,	...	0.36
Deaths, all causes	,, ,,	...	12.50
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	0.79
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	29.60

### Causes of Death during 1951

					M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	10	5	15
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	11	5	16
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	15	21	36
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	18	13	31
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	27	21	48
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	2	6	8
Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8	6	14
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	10	8	18
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
All Causes—Total					125	118	243



## Infant Mortality during 1951

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	1 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	Total under 1 year
Asthma and Purulent Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	1	1
Birth Injury ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Collapse of Lung ... ..	1	—	1	—	2
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	1	—	1
Prematurity ... ..	1	1	—	—	2
Total ...	3	1	2	1	7

## General Provision of Health Services for the Area

### Domiciliary Services

There are five general medical practitioners living and carrying on the main part of their practice in different areas of the district. In addition to this, most of the Taunton Borough practitioners have some rural district residents on their lists, and there is also, as would be expected, some overlap from the surrounding rural districts in the provision of medical attention. There are adequate arrangements, when required, for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are satisfactory and a good beginning has been made with the Home Help Service administered by the Somerset County Council.

### Hospital Services

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patient are detailed below :—

#### (1) General Medical and Surgical

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital together with Musgrove Park Hospital which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton,

and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishment, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Pædiatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is in the meantime dealing with Orthopædics, Ophthalmology and Ear, Nose and Throat work. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both hospitals have out-patient facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radiotherapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose.

### **(2) Infectious Diseases**

Cases of infectious disease from Taunton Rural District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. This hospital was administered up to 4th July, 1948, by a Joint Hospital Board, representing the various districts from which cases were admitted. Since that date, administration has passed to the Regional Hospital Board, with day to day management being carried out by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee. There are three large wards for the isolation and treatment of patients suffering from the commoner epidemic diseases, but these have become less useful since Diphtheria has become a rare condition, chiefly owing to the success of the national immunisation campaign, and since Scarlet Fever has apparently entered a mild phase in which most of the cases can be successfully isolated and nursed at home. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in a more recently constructed cubicle block. The hospital has been admitting in the past year or two many cases, especially among children of various pyrexial and nutritional illnesses not coming into the strict category of notifiable diseases, which would formerly have been treated in General Hospitals. Home isolation is carried out wherever the home conditions are satisfactory. Most cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital and also cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

### **(3) Tuberculosis**

Cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physicians for the area. The Sanatoria are at Quantock, Wincanton and Taunton for pulmonary cases. Cases requiring Orthopædic treatment are admitted to the Chard Sanatorium and to Bath Orthopædic Hospital. Pre-tubercular children and children with tubercular glands are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

#### (4) **Poliomyelitis**

Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

#### (5) **Small Pox**

Provision for the accommodation of cases of small pox is made at a hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater. Fortunately there has been no need to use the institution for this purpose for many years.

#### (6) **Chronic Sick**

Patients are received into hospitals, chiefly those in Taunton and Wellington, which have now passed from Public Assistance administration to that of the Regional Hospital Board. The status and reputation of these institutions is improving, more or less rapidly, as their association with the less desirable features of the old Poor Law fades from public memory. A geriatric service for the Taunton area is in process of development.

Powers now exist under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, for the compulsory removal to a suitable institution of persons who are not able to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other people, proper care and attention. There are adequate safeguards against misuse of these powers, but cases do crop up from time to time where they are very useful and in the true interest of the person concerned. The onus is thrown upon the Medical Officer of Health to investigate these cases and to advise on whether these powers ought to be invoked. No cases required to be dealt with in this way in the Taunton Rural District during 1951, although preliminary steps were taken on one or two occasions and these resulted in removal to an institution without compulsion having to be applied.

#### (7) **Mental Sick**

Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients' clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital which is situated in Taunton Rural District.



## **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

### **Tuberculosis**

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts, are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the County population, by a team working from a centre in Bristol, but this service has not been called upon to deal with residents in Taunton Rural District.

### **Venereal Disease**

A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. This centre has now come under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board. Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare**

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington at which some of the mothers from Taunton Rural District are confined. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

## **Laboratory Facilities**

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton which undertakes the bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, fæces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the

Doctors practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents, etc. The co-operation and assistance of the Public Health Laboratory Staff in investigating all types of bacteriological and epidemiological problems is of the greatest value.

## **Ambulance Facilities**

Ambulance transport for all cases has now become the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. A central ambulance department has been set up which arranges for vehicles to be provided as required.

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## **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area**

### **Water Supply**

The Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, places at the disposal of the Minister of Health a sum of £15,000,000 to assist schemes executed after the war for the provision or improvement of water supply and of sewerage facilities in Rural Districts, regard being taken, amongst other things, to the needs of industry and agriculture. The Council have under consideration a post-war scheme for the extension of a piped water supply to parishes requiring it. The provision of such a supply is most urgently needed in the following cases:—Cheddon Fitzpaine, Creech St. Michael (Adsborough), Durston (the village), Kingston (the village, Greenway, Parsonage Lane, Fulford and Dodhill), Otterford (Bishopswood), Tolland (the village), West Hatch (the village and higher portion of the parish), West Monkton (the village, Cherry Grove and Gotton).

Some of the parishes mentioned are within the limits of supply of the Taunton Corporation Water Undertaking, and any supply required in them must be obtained by application to the Corporation. The following parishes are within the limits of supply of the Taunton Corporation:—Bishops Hull, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Corfe, Creech St. Michael, Kingston, Norton Fitzwarren, Orchard Portman, Pitminster, Ruishton, Staplegrove, Thornfalcon, Trull and West Monkton.

Three water undertakings are owned by the Taunton Rural District Council. One is at Westleigh in the parish of Lydeard St. Lawrence, and another in the parishes of West Bagborough and



Cothelstone. The third water undertaking is that of the Crown Lands Estate, known as the Portman Supply. During the course of the year 1949 this supply was acquired by the Rural District Council. It is chlorinated before delivery to the consumers. Quarterly bacteriological analyses of the four supplies showed the water to be satisfactory.

The piped water supply to other parts of the District has been, on the whole, bacteriologically satisfactory, several examinations having been made during the course of the year. The supplies have also been satisfactory in quantity apart from fairly severe summer shortage in the Portman Supply. This shortage is likely to recur in future years and the problem in the parishes affected, namely, West Hatch, North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory and Thornfalcon, is unlikely to be solved until the new scheme of supply for these areas has been put into operation. Some of the wells in the district yield satisfactory waters but others are very liable to contamination. With these, chlorination or other methods sometimes result in a pure supply but many of the wells are shallow and can never be relied upon to give a constant wholesome supply. In these cases boiling of the water is usually advised and the problem will not be satisfactorily solved until piped water is taken to the properties concerned. In the parish of West Hatch there was again a serious shortage of well water during the summer ; this is a recurring trouble and the projected water scheme for the Eastern parishes of the District will be most beneficial to this area.

During the course of the year a piped water supply was provided for the village of Stoke St. Mary. The water was made available and the work carried out by Taunton Corporation on behalf of the Rural District Council. Work was completed on the provision of piped water supply for the district of Stapley. Piped water was laid on in the usual way to all Council houses which were completed during 1950.

Taunton Borough Council has had surveys carried out for the building of a large impounding reservoir at Clatworthy in the region of the headwaters of the river Tone. If this scheme is brought into operation there will probably be a large surplus of water over and above the needs of the Borough and this should make available an abundant supply for the Taunton Rural District, but it will, of course, be a considerable time before these plans materialise.

The following return presents in tabular form the position as to the distribution of piped water supplies in the District :—



PARISH.	Area of Parish. Acres.	No. of houses in Parish.	No. of houses having a piped water supply under pressure into or on to the house (including those with a tap outside only).	Of the houses not included in 3 (1), the number having within 100 yards of a water main available for a supply.	Of the houses not in 3 (1) & (2) the number that are in villages, hamlets or groups of 20 or more houses so placed as to lie within a circle $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in diameter.	Of the houses not connected to a public sewer the number in villages, hamlets or groups of 20 or more houses so placed as to lie within a circle $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in diameter.
	1	2	3 (1)	3 (2)	3 (3)	4
Ash Priors	641	36	19	11	—	—
Bickenhall	1143	45	36	—	—	—
Bishops Hull	1283	449	440	9	—	—
Bishops Lydeard	4832	539	318	42	—	20
Cheddon Fitzpaine	1883	133	41	17	—	23
Churchstanton	5435	161	52	—	—	38
Combe Florey	1382	69	55	4	—	—
Corfe	1165	77	76	—	—	22
Cothelstone	1455	40	16	—	—	—
Creech St. Michael	2298	304	301	3	—	172
Curland	648	39	21	—	—	—
Durston	1013	51	—	—	—	43
Halse	1320	84	44	15	—	58
Hatch Beauchamp	1408	128	105	5	—	—
Kingston	2584	231	29	—	79	123
Lydeard St. Lawrence	2748	118	79	2	—	39
North Curry	5822	410	338	30	—	—
Norton Fitzwarren	2054	236	191	70	—	—
Orchard Portman	1665	50	26	—	—	—
Otterford	2446	107	—	—	34	34
Pitminster	5780	383	244	84	—	33 (Pitminster) 64 (Blagdon) 49 (Staplehay) 114
Ruishton	1027	143	121	27	—	—
Staple Fitzpaine	3029	58	43	—	—	—
Staplegrove	1027	87	51	42	—	37
Stoke St. Gregory	4135	353	349	3	—	25
Stoke St. Mary	2019	159	106	9	—	—
Thornfalcon	822	46	41	—	—	—
Tolland	842	24	2	—	—	—
Trull	2172	288	236	36	—	140
West Bagborough	2006	113	101	—	—	57
West Hatch	1619	88	10	—	—	—
West Monkton	2972	396	253	87	20	110 (Bathpool) 101 (M. Heath.) 39 (Village)

## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Proper sewage disposal is not only an amenity but it is a necessity and is essential whenever a piped water supply has been provided. Pail closets and privy middens are most undesirable because they are more often than not badly attended to owing to the unpleasant work connected with them. A multiplication of privately owned cesspools and septic tanks is also undesirable and these have been increasing in number because of the addition of water closets and baths to houses having a piped water supply.

The Rural District as a whole is very poorly sewered, but the Council are alive to this fact and are very anxious to effect improvements as soon as economic conditions in the country permit. Schemes have been prepared by the Consulting Engineers to deal with various parts of the district, and it is hoped that a beginning can be made with these in the near future. A special Sub-Committee of the Council was constituted during the course of the year to inspect, along with Council officials, certain areas of the district in which sewage disposal arrangements were particularly bad, and a rough scale of priorities was drawn up to act as a guide in deciding on the schemes which should receive most urgent consideration.

During the course of the year a number of cases of alleged nuisance arising from the effluents of septic tanks were investigated. Some of the complaints were fully justified and various measures were taken in an attempt to improve matters.

Only 7 parishes out of 32 in the District have sewage disposal works of their own, these being the parishes of :—

*Bishops Hull*—though some 30 houses or so are not connected with the main sewer. *Bishops Lydeard*—some of the Council houses in this parish are not connected with the sewer. *Combe Florey*—the disposal works here serves its purpose for the time being but is not large enough to deal with sewage from any more houses. *Corfe*—new disposal works have recently been constructed in this parish because of a very objectionable nuisance which existed there. The piping involved in carrying out this work will be made use of when the major scheme for the Rural District as a whole is brought into operation. *Hatch Beauchamp*—these works are very old and entirely unsatisfactory. A considerable portion of this village is not sewered at all. *North Curry*—the works are in the nature of a sewage farm. They are overloaded and the land is suffering from “Sewage sickness”. *Norton Fitzwarren*—recent disposal works have been constructed here and should prove ample and satisfactory for a further increase in population.

A large Sewage Disposal Works to be situated in the parish of Creech St. Michael is planned for the Borough of Taunton and when

this is constructed it is intended that a great deal of the sewage from the adjacent parts of the Rural District will be dealt with at these works.

## Refuse Collection

The modernisation of the refuse collection service in the area mentioned in the 1950 Annual Report has now been put into operation. The work is still carried out under contract, with the difference that a stipulation was inserted as to the type of vehicles to be operated. The Contractor has provided two new vehicles comprising Derby type refuse collection bodies complete with hydraulic tipping gear mounted on Bedford chassis. The schedule of collections has also been drastically revised as follows:—

A. In the previous scheme refuse was only collected from certain specified roads—the service has now been extended to all roads in the area maintained by the County Council.

B. In the original scheme the parishes of Bishops Hull and Bishops Lydeard had a fortnightly collection and the remainder of the area a monthly collection. The new schedules are as follows:—

<i>Weekly Collections.</i>	<i>Fortnightly Collections.</i>	<i>Monthly Collections.</i>
Bishops Hull	Athelney	Ash Priors
Bishops Lydeard	Blagdon	Adsborough
	Blagdon Hill	Bickenhall
	Curload	Combe Florey
	Culmhead Camp	Cothelstone
	Creech St. Michael village	Creech Heathfield
	Eastbrook	Cheddon Fitzpaine
	Fulwood	Churchstanton
	Kingston	Corfe
	North Curry village	Curland
	Norton Fitzwarren	Durston
	Ruishton	Hatch Beauchamp
	Stoke St. Gregory village	Ham
	Sellicks Green	Halse
	Staplehay	Lydeard St. Lawrence
	Sherford Camp	Langaller
	Stoke St. Mary	North Curry (outskirts)
	Staplegrove	Orchard Portman
	Trull	Otterford
	Woodhill	Pitminster (outskirts)
	West Monkton	Stoke St. Gregory (outskirts)
		Staple Fitzpaine
		Thornfalcon
		Tolland
		West Bagborough
		West Hatch



## Refuse Disposal

The tip at Creech St. Michael has now been closed and a new tip brought into use in the parish of West Monkton. The new disposal area consists of an old stone quarry (unused for 50 years) surrounded by a dense belt of trees and undergrowth, and completely isolated from houses in the area. Although this tip is not central for the area its many other advantages make it ideal for refuse disposal and far outweigh this one disadvantage. It is estimated that it will last approximately 20 years. No tipping above normal ground level will be required, and the area is immune from any flooding. Much preliminary work had to be carried out before the tip could be used, e.g., erection of fences, gates, notices, and the construction of a roadway. The roadway which would have normally cost in the region of £200 was constructed entirely of waste tarmac from a military establishment in the area without expense to the Council.

Although the depth and width of the face of the tip is excessive at the moment owing to the contour of the ground, very thorough measures against vermin have been carried out with great success. As regards fly nuisance tip dressing has been applied at regular intervals during the summer months.

## Salvage Collection

This service was reintroduced with the new refuse collection scheme in May, 1951. One refuse vehicle has been provided with a large capacity salvage trailer and the other vehicle carries a supply of sacks. The vehicles make contact at various times during the day so that salvage can be transferred to the trailer as and when required. The drivers and loaders receive a bonus of 20 per cent. of the monthly sales as an incentive for their effort. A large type Nissen hut has been erected adjacent to the tip at West Monkton for the storage and preparation of the various types of salvage. The actual baling and sorting of paper, rags, etc., is carried out by two part-time female employees. The results from the inception of the scheme in May, 1951, to December 31st, 1951, are as follows:—

	T.	C.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed waste ...	19	5	0	0	294	18	9
Cardboard ...	10	10	2	0	182	10	0
Newsprint and books	16	19	2	0	374	9	7
Rags ...	1	5	0	10	38	18	1
Wool ...		3	0	26	4	18	3
Sacking ...	1	8	1	14	13	9	5
Horse hair ...		1	0	20		13	8

	T.	C.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
String ... ..		2	2	17		15	4
Bottles and jam jars...					3	11	6
Scrap iron ... ..	16	14	2	0	38	10	11
Mixed metals ... ..		18	2	0	34	7	9
Tyres (scrap) ... ..		10	0	0	2	10	0
Sulphur ... ..		7	1	0	6	3	3
					£995	16	6

This resulted in a surplus of £516 3s. 9d.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors :—

Number and nature of inspections during the year :—

Dwelling houses ... ..	353
Number of dwelling houses repaired ... ..	17
"                    "                    with repairs in hand ... ..	—
Voluntarily closed ... ..	—
Slaughter houses ... ..	270
Bakehouses ... ..	7
Other premises where food is prepared or sold ... ..	43
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	1
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc. ... ..	21
Miscellaneous ... ..	173

Number of Notices served during the year :—

Informal Notices ... ..	51
Statutory Notices ... ..	8

Result of service of Notices :—

Total Notices complied with ... ..	35
Notices standing over at the end of 1951 ... ..	24

## Water Samples

60 samples of water have been obtained for bacteriological examination during the year. Of this number 49 have been taken from private supplies, and reported on as follows :—

Grade 1.	13 samples.
2.	4     ,,
3.	8     ,,
4.	24    ,,
	—
	49    ,,
	—

Advice on improving existing supplies and warnings against drinking water without boiling have been issued in all appropriate cases.

11 samples of water have been obtained from public supplies in the area. The results are as follows :—

Supply.	No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatis- factory.
West Bagborough (not chlorinated).	1	1	—
Bishops Lydeard and West Bagborough (not chlorinated).	1	1	—
Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone (not chlorinated).	2	2	—
Lydeard St. Lawrence (not chlorinated).	3	3	—
Portman Supply (chlorinated) ...	4	2	2

Investigations have been made in conjunction with the Surveyor to the Council in cases where reports fall short of the required standard—recent samples have now shown a marked improvement.

Five chemical analyses have been taken and all were satisfactory.

### **Smoke Abatement**

No cases occurred during the year.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools**

There are not any in the area.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs**

No cases occurred during the year.

### **Rodent Control**

An operator is employed jointly with Wellington R.D.C. During the year the sewers, sewage disposal works and refuse dumps were inspected and treated systematically. Private dwelling houses and business premises have been surveyed and treated both from complaints made and infestations discovered during surveys. The inspections of farm premises have been carried out in areas suspected in conjunction with complaints, and co-operation with the Agricultural Executive Committee Pest Department has been working effectively. Summary of inspection and control measures taken are as follows :—



1. Prevalence of Rats and Mice

Type of Property	(i)	(ii) (iii) (iv) Number of Properties in Local Authority's area  in which infestation was			(v)	(vi)		(vii)  Analysis of Column (iv)	
		Notified by Occupier	Otherwise discovered	Recorded Total of (ii) and (iii)		Rats			Mice only
						Major	Minor		
Local Authority's Property ...	7	Nil.	7	7	6	1	Nil.		
Dwelling House ...	4,953	41	223	264	138	122	4		
Business Premises	352	6	27	33	22	11	Nil.		
Agricultural Pro- perty ...	537	2	40	42	27	15	Nil.		
Total ...	5,849	49	297	346	193	149	4		

2. Measures of Control by Local Authority

Type of Property	No. of Properties inspected	No. of Inspections made	Number of Notices served under Sec. 4		Number of treatments carried out			Block treatment of properties in different occupancies under Sec. 6 (1) or by informal arrangements		
			Treatments	Works	By arrangement with occupier		Under Section 5 (1)	Number of Blocks	Surface	Associated Sewers
					Rats	Mice only				
Local Authority's Property ...	7	120	Nil.	Nil.	22	1	Nil.	4	Nil.	78
Dwelling House ...	286	872	Nil.	Nil.	184	6	Nil.	10	74	11
Business Premises	67	136	Nil.	Nil.	27	1	Nil.	1	5	Nil.
Agricultural Property ...	72	89	Nil.	Nil.	42	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total ...	432	1,217	Nil.	Nil.	275	8	Nil.	15	79	89

## **Offensive Trades**

There are two offensive trades in the district within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1946. One is that of tripe boiling and the other a Knacker's Yard for the provision of dog and cat food.

## **Bakehouses**

There are 13 bakehouses in the district and 7 visits were made to them during the year. Several minor defects have been noted and dealt with by informal action. In the 1950 Annual Report it was stated that plans had been submitted to and approved by the Council for the erection of a complete new sanitary block and washing accommodation at one of the largest bakehouses in the district. This work has now been completed.

## **Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949**

The number of persons registered with the Council as distributors of milk in the area is 8.

## **Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulation, 1949**

Two dealers' licences are in force under the above Regulation.

## **Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulation, 1949**

Eight dealers' licences are in force under the above Regulation.

## **Ice Cream**

The number of retailers of this produce in the area is 25; of this number one only is an actual manufacturer. The remainder of the retailers sell pre-packed ice cream, which is stored in properly constructed refrigerators.

## **Meat Inspection**

The inspection of calves at the Creech St. Michael Slaughterhouse is still being carried out in accordance with the system described in the 1950 Annual Report. Attention is drawn to the abnormal amount of time spent on this important public health duty both inside and outside normal office hours. During the Winter period killing takes place on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, whilst in the Summer months inspections have to be made on at least four days per week including

Saturday and Sunday. The regular week-end killing due to the Taunton market being held on a Saturday places a very heavy burden on a staff consisting of two Inspectors only. It is to be hoped that at some date in the near future the whole question of the redistribution of the work of meat inspection will be undertaken—at the moment several small authorities are carrying a responsibility far in excess of their normal duties.



	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	0	0	20,924	15	1
Number inspected ...	0	0	20,924	15	1
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	0	0	145	4	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	0	0	46	3	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	0	0	0.91	46.6	0
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	0	0	13	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	0	0	21	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	0	0	0.16	0	0

The following were also condemned as being unfit for food :—

Sugar	...	...	22 lbs.	Flour	...	...	342 lbs.
Beef	...	...	123 ,,	Corned beef	...	...	78 ,,
Ham	...	...	9 ,,	Sweetened fat	...	...	56 ,,
Tinned foods	...	...	74 tins.	Fat rinds	...	...	16 $\frac{1}{4}$ ,,

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No outbreaks of Food Poisoning have occurred in the District in the year under review.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The inspection of factories and workshops in the district from a public health point of view is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department. Routine visits are paid to the various premises and the following table gives particulars of this work. It is to be noted that the term Factories as used in this connection now includes Workshops, which accounts for the large number on the Register in this Rural District.

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		tions. Inspec.	Written notices.	Occupiers prose- cuted.
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	9	3	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies	69	11	0	0
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	0	0	0	0
Total ...	78	14	0	0



## 2.—Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects wre found.				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were in stituted.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective ... ..	3	3	0	3	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences (not in- cluding offences relat- ing to Homework) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	3	3	0	3	0

## HOUSING

There have been no cases of legal overcrowding during the year.

Three houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, at Athelney, North Curry and West Monkton had their licences renewed. This re-occupation of condemned houses is not an infringement of Sec. 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is an emergency measure resulting from the past war and designed to meet the housing needs of the influx of agricultural workers and covered by Regulation 68a Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. These houses have been inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, who reported to the Council the minimum repairs, etc., necessary to bring them into such a condition of cleanliness and repair as to be reasonably capable of being used as a temporary measure for housing purposes without detriment to health. Where the owner has complied with the recommendations, the Council may issue a licence authorising the occupation of a house, but the licence is not operative for more than six months at a time.

The Council have had under consideration the post-war housing needs of the District (a) to replace unfit dwellings; (b) to abate overcrowding; (c) for other reasons.

A survey of housing in the district under £16 rateable value, excluding Council houses and houses erected after 1930 was carried out and the following tables give the position as it existed at the end of 1949. The figures provide useful data in assessing the housing needs in various parts of the district :—

(1) Houses . satisfactory in all respects	... ..	458 or 14.1% of the total.
(2) Houses with minor defects	... ..	2,072 or 63.8% do.
(3) Houses with major defects and/or requiring structural alterations	... ..	366 or 11.3% do.
(4) Houses provisionally graded as unfit	... ..	350 or 10.8% do.

The houses in categories (2) and (3) as far as existing conditions permit will be improved so that they may be placed in a higher grade. Of the houses provisionally graded as unfit, 8 were

purchased by private individuals, on becoming vacant, and the new owners reconstructed them under licence and made them satisfactory in all respects.

The survey also showed that—

- 14.6% of the houses were connected to the sewer.
- 25.5% of the houses had septic tanks for sewage disposal.
- 59.9% of the houses used pail closets or similar types as their sanitary accommodation.
- 62.4% of the houses were supplied from the main water supply.
- 31.5% of the houses were supplied from wells.
- 6.1% of the houses were supplied from springs.
- 49.0% of the houses were provided with wash-up sinks.
- 14.7% of the houses were provided with baths.
- 9.5% of the houses used gas for lighting, some of these also using it for heating and/or cooking.
- 35.2% of the houses used electricity for lighting, some of these also using it for heating and/or cooking.

The Council's building programme was as follows :—

Parish.			Number completed during year 1951	Number under construction at 31st Dec., 1951
Bishops Lydeard	...	...	—	28
Churchstanton	...	...	6	10
North Curry	...	...	6	—
Otterford	...	...	—	2
West Monkton	...	...	4	—
			—	—
			16	40
			<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>



The following table shows the Parishes in which the Council have erected houses under the various Acts :—

Parish.	Address.	Number of Houses.
Bishops Hull ...	1/70 Smithy Cottages ...	70
do. ...	20/35 Mountway Cottages ...	16
		— 86
Bishops Lydeard ...	1/8 Gore Cottages ...	8
do. ...	1/10 Pound Lane ...	10
do. ...	1/12 Mill Lane Cottages ...	12
do. ...	1/30 Halfyard Cottages ...	30
		— 60
Cheddon Fitzpaine ...	1/8 School Cottages ...	8
Churchstanton ...	1/4 Stapley Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/4 Church Road Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/6 Gillards Mead ...	6
		— 14
Combe Florey ...	1/4 Meadowside ...	4
Corfe ...	1/4 Brook Cottages ...	4
Creech St. Michael ..	1/8 Ryes Terrace ...	8
do. ..	1/6 Charlton Lane Cottages ...	6
do. ...	1/4 Cheads Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/16 Rocketts Cottages ...	16
do. ...	1/10 Creechwood Terrace ...	10
		— 44
Curland ...	1/4 Castle View ...	4
Hatch Beauchamp ...	1/4 Palmers Green Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/8 Crimthorne Cotts ...	8
		— 12
Kingston ...	1/6 Parks Cottages ...	6
do. ...	1 and 2 Chaces ...	2
do. ...	1/8 Greenway Terrace ...	8
do. ...	1/4 Fulford Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/10 Parsonage Cottages ...	10
		— 30
Lydeard St. Lawrence..	1/8 Cross Croft ...	4
do. ...	1/4 Nethercott Road ...	8
		— 12

Parish.		Address.		Number of Houses.
North Curry	...	1/6 Oxen Lane	...	6
do.	...	1/4 Backham Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/10 Croft Cottages	...	10
do.	...	1/8 Lillesdon Terrace	...	8
do.	...	1/8 Cricket Cottages	...	8
do.	...	1/14 Town Close	...	14
do.	...	21/24 do.	...	4
do.	...	15/20 do.	...	6
				— 60
Norton Fitzwarren	...	1/4 Burnshill Terrace	...	4
do.	...	1/24 Rectory Road Cottages	...	24
do.	...	1/10 Station Road Cottages	...	10
do.	...	1/4 Manleys Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/4 Court Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/10 The Crescent	...	10
				— 56
Pitminster	...	1/8 Littleham Cottages	...	8
do.	...	1/8 Colleylake Cottages	...	8
				— 16
Ruishton	...	1/5 Ruishton Lane Cottages	...	5
do.	...	1/3 Lipe Lane Cottages	...	3
do.	...	1/4 Slades Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/12 Steart Cottages	...	12
				— 24
Staplegrove	...	1/6 Hillhead Cottages	...	6
Stoke St. Gregory	...	1/16 Willey Road	...	16
do.	...	1/8 Stathe Cottages	...	8
do.	...	1/20 Woodhill Terrace	...	20
do.	...	1 and 2 Meare Green Cottages	...	2
				— 46
Stoke St. Mary	...	1/4 Homefield Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/8 Pattens Cottages	...	8
				— 12
Thornfalcon	...	1/8 Glebe Cottages	...	8
Trull	...	1 and 2 Horts Cottages	...	2
do.	...	7/14 Mill Lane	...	8
do.	...	1/4 The Green	...	4
				— 14

Parish	Address			Houses Number of
West Bagborough	...	1/10	Vale View Cottages	10
do.	...	1/4	Hill View Cottages	4
do.	...	1/4	South View Cottages	4
do.	...	1/4	Parkside	4
				— 22
West Monkton	...	1/4	Titley Cottages	4
do.	...	1/4	Brittons Ash Cottages	4
do.	...	1/6	Hyde Lane Cottages	6
do.	...	1/14	School Road Cottages	14
do.	...	1/8	Elms Estate	8
do.	...	21/54	do.	34
do.	...	9/16	do.	8
do.	...	17/20	do.	4
				— 82
TOTAL				624

Of the above total of 624 houses. 204 were built to replace houses dealt with by Slum Clearance in previous years, under the Housing Acts of 1930 and 1936.

Ex-Military Camps

In September, 1946, the Taunton Rural District Council took over the administration of Camps at Pyrland, Courtlands and Sandhill Park on behalf of the Ministry of Health. These camps had been occupied unofficially by a process of "squatting". In 1947 a similar camp at Culmhead was taken over. The accommodation in the camps consists of Nissen or similar type of huts, some of which have been modified to make them more suitable for family occupation. They are far from ideal from the housing point of view, and their use can only be looked upon as a temporary expedient, but at least they provide some relief in the present desperate housing shortage.

The number of occupied huts in each of the three camps at the end of 1951 was as follows:—

Courtlands	...	...	...	...	11
Sandhill Park	...	...	...	...	131
Culmhead	...	...	...	...	15

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the number of notifications received for various notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis), their age groups and the notification rates compared with those of England and Wales, and the number admitted to the Isolation Hospital :—

Diseases.	No. of Notifications.	AGE GROUPS.							No. admitted to Isolation Hospital.
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25 & over	
Scarlet Fever ...	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	81	5	19	20	34	3	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles ...	147	3	21	37	55	22	9	—	6
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery ...	4	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total ...	240	8	40	57	96	26	10	3	10

Notification rates for Taunton Rural District compared with those of England and Wales taken as a whole are calculated per 1,000 civilian population, except Puerperal Pyrexia which is calculated per 1,000 total live and still births :—

Diseases.	No. of Notifications.	Rates for	
		Taunton R.D.	England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever ...	5	0.24	1.11
Whooping Cough ...	81	3.94	3.87
Measles ...	147	7.10	14.07
Acute Pneumonia ...	—	—	0.99
Erysipelas ...	1	0.05	0.14
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	0.05	10.66
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	0.05
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	0.13
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	0.00
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	0.02
Diphtheria ...	1	0.05	0.02
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	0.03
Smallpox ...	—	—	0.00
Dysentery ...	4	0.19	0.00



TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives the number of new cases of respiratory and non-respiratory Tuberculosis notified during 1951 and mortality from the disease :—

New Cases and Mortality during 1951

Ages in Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.		Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	—	1	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10 ... ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25 ... ..	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 ... ..	6	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 — 45 ... ..	7	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
45 — 55 ... ..	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65 ... ..	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and up... ..	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Not known ... ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	41		4		3		—	

At the end of the year, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names and addresses of 114 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis and 21 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

## Prevention of Blindness

No arrangements have been made by the Local Authority with respect to the prevention of Blindness, under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are notified by the Doctors to the Public Health Department of the County Council and when necessary are admitted to the Taunton Isolation Hospital.

## Diphtheria Prophylaxis

Immunisation against Diphtheria continues to be carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerest County Council and by the Medical Practitioners in the District. The County Council's Immunisation Scheme, which was begun in Taunton Rural District during 1941, continues to make progress, and the following figures supplied by the County Council show the condition of the child population as regards immunisation at the end of 1951:—

### Pre-School Children : aged 0—4 years

Number Immunised.	Estimated percentage immunised of total children in this Age Group.
589	37.70

### School Children : aged 5—14 years

Number Immunised.	Estimated percentage immunised of total children in this Age Group.
1,072	44.68

One case of diphtheria was notified in the district during the course of the year, but further investigation disproved the presence of this infection.

In the recent Circulars (193/45 and 194/45), issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the

same time it must be remembered that if Diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be maintained by re-inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year, dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of antigen before he begins school attendance.





